मेजर जनरल (सेवानिवृत्त) भुवन चन्द्र खंडूडी : माननीय सभापति जी, पहले तो माननीय सदस्य ने कहा है कि बरदाश्त से बहुत ज्यादा है, तो मैं आपकी अनुमति से सदन को यह सूचना देना चाहूंगा कि यह जो टौल टैक्स हम इस्तेमाल कर रहे है, दरअसल इसका शब्दार्थ है 'यूजर फ़ी' , उपयोग के लिए, सुविधा के लिए लिया जा रहा है और आमतौर पर कितना इससे इसका इस्तेमाल करने वालों को फ़ायदा हो रहा है, वर्ल्ड बैंक ने एक स्टडी की है कि गोल्डन क्वाड्रिलेट्रल 6000 किलोमीटर बनने के बाद जो इसे इस्तेमाल करने वाले लोग है, उनको प्रतिवर्ष 8000 करोड़ रूपये का फ़ायदा होगा । हम यह टौल टैक्स, यूज़र फ़ी सिर्फ़ 1500 करोड़ रूपए ले पायेंगे । तो इसका इस्तेमाल करने वालों को हर साल 6500 करोड़ रूपए का फ़ायदा होने वाला है । इसलिए यह जो फ़ीस हम चार्ज कर रहे है, यह बहुत उचित है और ये जो रेट्स है, ये सितम्बर 1997 से लागू किए गए थे, हम उन्हीं रेट्स को चार्ज कर रहे है । दूसरा माननीय सदस्य ने जो कहा कि वे हमसे मिले थे .....

श्री सभापति : अब खत्म कीजिए, टाईम हो गया है ।

Question Hour is over.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Display of wholesale/maximum retail price on goods

*321. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has asked Government to evolve a policy for display of wholesale price alongwith maximum retail price printed on goods; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS. FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The Attorney General of India in a letter addressed to the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has informed that the Supreme Court in a Bench Presided over by the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, has suggested that an appropriate legislation may be passed so that the factory price or the selling price by the manufacturer is also shown on the goods. This will enable the consumer to know the exact profit charged by the retailer and other intermediaries and will also enhance the bargaining power of the consumer.

2. Department of Consumer Affairs had examined the suggestion. It was noted that under the existing provisions of the Packaged Commodities Rules, 1977, the manufacturer/packer is obliged to make, *interalia,* declaration of retail sale price in the form of Maximum Retail Price (MRP) inclusive of all taxes.

2.1 There are practical difficulties to implement the suggestion in view of the fact that:—

(a) Determination of the factory price or the selling price by the manufacturer is influenced by factors such as octroi, entry tax, sales tax, surcharge (if any) which varies from State of State;

(b) Beside, ex-factory price or the selling price also varied for different classes of purchasers such as institutional buyers, defence service buyers, discounts offered, wholesale buyers or for retail trade;

(c) Often items of mass consumption are sold by the manufacturer/packer in small packs for daily use and at retail purchasable price level. The printing space on the rappers of the packages of such small packs is very limited and it does not lend itself to the addition of one more element of marking suggested.

3. Department of Consumer Affairs has requested the Ministry of Finance to bring about suitable changes in the Central Excise Laws to collect duty on the basis ot MRP instead of ex-factory price of pre packed commodities. This has been done to protect the interest of the consumers as it discourages manufacturers/packers from inflating MRP in their products well beyond the ex-factory prices. Since 1997, progressively changes have been made in the Finance Bills to include increasing number of items under Central Excise Rules for levying duty on MRP basis.

Food insecurity Atlas of Urban India

*323. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Nagpur has been ranked at the lowest level *i.e.* 18th while Pune is on 1st position on the food